

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

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R 012148Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA ROUTINE
USMISSION USNATO ROUTINE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK ROUTINE
AMEMBASSY LONDON ROUTINE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH ON MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

REF: A. STATE 174525 B. STATE 183175

1. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR LAUREAU CALLED ON DEPARTMENT
POL-MILOFF AUGUST 1 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF SELECTING AD-
DITIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CD).

2. LAUREAU STATED THAT FRENCH DCM IN MOSCOW HAD RECENTLY
HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELYAN ON THIS SUBJECT. ISRAELYAN
HAD RESPONDED TO FRENCH PROPOSAL (REF A) THAT DECISION ON
ADDITIONAL CD MEMBERS BE MADE BY REGIONAL GROUPS IN NEW
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YORK. ISRAELYAN TOLD DCM THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE
AGREEMENT FIRST AMONG THE FOUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. HE
PROPOSED FOUR POWER CONSULTATIONS ON NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL
MEMBERS AND PARTICULAR CANDIDATES. HE STATED THAT ONLY
IN SECOND STAGE SHOULD SUCH CONSULTATIONS BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE OTHER STATES. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS APPROACH
FAVORED BY UNGA PRESIDENT MOJSOV.

3. FRENCH DCM HAD REPLIED THAT FRANCE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THIS PROCEDURE WHICH IT THINKS GOES AGAINST PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY OF ALL STATES IN THE SELECTION PROCESS. LAUREAU ASKED WHETHER US SUPPORTED SOVIET POSITION.

4. POL-MILOFF SAID THAT US IS CONTINUING TO REVIEW BEST METHOD FOR SELECTION PROCESS TO PROCEED. DRAWING ON REFTEL B, HE INDICATED THAT US THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO HAVE PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS AMONG NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION. SUCH PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS NEED NOT INVOLVE DECISIONS ON CANDIDACY OF PARTICULAR STATE.

5. POL-MILOFF TOLD LAUREAU THAT WE HAVE ALSO HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH ISRAELYAN IN MOSCOW. WE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT US DID NOT SUPPORT ORIGINAL SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT DECISION ON ADDITIONAL MEMBERS BE MADE IN GENEVA THROUGH CONSULTATIONS IN THE CCD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIETS FAVOR LIMITING EXPANSION OF CD TO FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AND THAT THEY WOULD FAVOR AUSTRALIA, ALGERIA, CUBA, SRI LANKA, AND FINLAND.

6. POL-MILOFF STATED US WOULD PREFER VENEZUELA OVER CUBA. WE DO NOT HAVE FIRM POSITION ON OTHER NAMES ON LIST. HOW-CONFIDENTIAL

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EVER, SOVIET LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE A NATO COUNTRY. POL-MILOFF ASKED FOR FRENCH VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING A NATO STATE AMONG ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

7. LAUREAU STATED THAT FRANCE DOES NOT HAVE FIRM POSITION ON NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS. HOWEVER, PARIS FEELS THERE SHOULD BE POLITICAL BALANCE AMONG NEW MEMBERS. HE WONDERED HOW, IF IT WAS AGREED THAT A NATO COUNTRY WOULD BE INCLUDED, THE CHOICE WOULD BE MADE AMONG THE FOUR CURRENT CANDIDATES.

8. LAUREAU UNDERTOOK TO SEEK GOF REACTION TO IDEA OF FURTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ON QUESTIONS OF NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL SEATS, GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION. VANCE

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